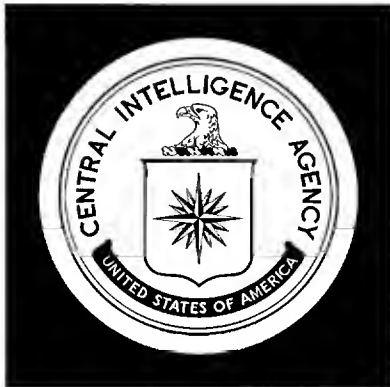


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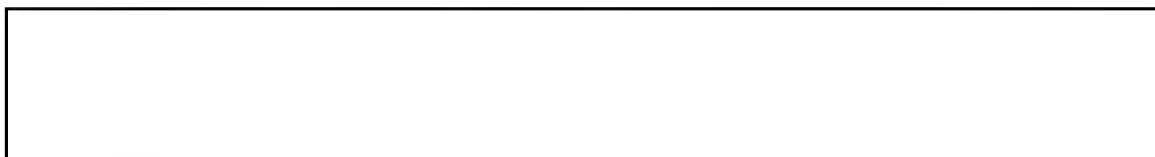
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GUATEMALA - UK - BRITISH HONDURAS: Assessment of
current Guatemalan position. (Page 3)



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GUATEMALA - UK - BRITISH HONDURAS: The Arana government, although still suspicious of British intentions in British Honduras, is maintaining a more calm and flexible position for the moment.

President Arana and his key advisers were pleased by the conciliatory tone of the latest British note and reacted positively to London's decision not to send Gurkha troops to the colony. Nevertheless, Guatemala is not yet clear about the total garrison strength the British intend to maintain.

Until London provides further clarification, Arana refuses to resume talks but is willing to temporize on plans for a diplomatic offensive. In the meantime, his government is taking steps to mobilize broad bipartisan support, in part to diffuse political responsibility for the handling of the current crisis.

Arana apparently realizes that his ability to win further concessions on troop reinforcement is limited, and he may ultimately scale down his demands that the garrison be reduced to its past level. Nevertheless, given his readiness to take risks, the danger of miscalculation persists.

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